

# A Hero in Red

by Avatarmikasa

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Summary: When Zen is in trouble can who can save him?

## 1. Chapter 1

Note: Takes place after chapter 74 when Zen, Kiki, and Mitsuhide are on there way to Winstal castle

They where on there way to Winstal castle, Zen with his white stallion, and his two Aides Kiki and Mitsuhide close behind. As they where galloping gallantly the prince motioned for them to halt "let's take a rest here, where almost there" The place they rested was a small meadow with a stream for the horses to drink. The three friends rested enjoying each others company for a small while. Until a grumble was heard from the road ahead, the three drew their swords and where surrounded within minutes.

Six men on horses surrounded the Prince and his friends. The mens attire made them seem to be of status. the leader of the six had dark brown hair, a slimmer face, almond skin and cold black eyes. He spoke first with a sly smile "Well if it isn't Prince Zen Westellia." And in an even more condescending manner added "Coming to save Winstal castle from it's power diminishing state and take back the land the nobles have, 'stole' I presume?"

The prince had a sickened expression on his features "Just what do you want" The man snickered jumping off his horse, "Well you see, those nobles that you've come to put in their place. Have sent their knights." And gesturing around to his comrades he added gracefully "Us."

Mitsuhide spoke up this time "We want no harm, I'm confident we can come to an agreement" The leader and the other 5 let out hardy laughs, "Where're the knights, not the peace keepers!" The man cleared his throat and ceased his laughter "Now we could do this the

easy way, or the hard way."

Zen was still on guard but held a disgusted yet intrigued expression "What's the easy way?" The dark haired boy stepped closer to the prince with challenging eyes "You come with us to our base." Zen's griped tighter on his sword as he remained in eye contact "And the hard?" The leaders smirk grew as he reached for his own sword.

"Your gonna find out."

Swords flew in the air as the leader made his first move toward Zen. Almost immediately all the men jumped off their horses and unleashed their weapons. Kiki and Mitsuhide were holding their own against the four knights as Zen took on the leader.

The two being excellent swordsmen creating a difficult fight. Their swords clashed and stayed for a moment while the head knight spoke "We understand how much your country means to you Prince, but let me make this clear" using more force against Zen's sword "We will not lose."

Zen snickered as the head knight jumped back quickly, just as Zen opened his mouth to speak he felt a large force hit the back of his head. And he was on the ground.

## 2. Chapter 2

It was a normal day at the pharmacy in Lyrias, Shirayuki and Ryuu had their reports and medicines to take care of. While Obi occasionally popping in and out of the pharmacy in-between guarding shifts.

While on guard duty Obi overheard some of his fellow comrades talk about his master which immediately grabbed his attention

"Yeah did you hear? His majesty Izana will probably give Prince Zen Winstal castle."

The other guard chuckled "No way Prince Zen is still a kid isn't he?"

"Hey I wouldn't be too sure he's grown the past couple of years from what I've heard he's become a strong leader." The other guard just smirked "I bet it's by the help of that red headed mystery girl he's crazy about!" They both laughed, before the first guard spoke up "Well either way, he has our support." The other smiled and nodded in agreement before they both continued on their guard and out of Obi's hearing.

The cat eyed boy let his hands fall behind his head in a comfortable manner "It's been awhile since we've seen master and everyone." He spoke to himself making his way to the check point.

Upon arriving to the check point Obi was greeted by one of the guards he'd become a sort of friend with. A taller man with curly blond hair, he was more on the awkward side but carried a positive energy with him "Obi! Do you have the papers?" Obi just looked at his friend with a smirk handing him the stack of papers he was meant to deliver "Who do you think I am Joe?" His friend just laughed "I should have

expected no less, oh yeah have you heard the news?"

"About Master? Yeah I head he's probably going to get Winstal castle soon." His friend looked at the dark haired boy excitedly "Not just soon, he already has!"

"WHAT !?" Obi choked out.

The tall man had a big smile "Yeah I heard rumors him and his aides have already left Wistalia Castle! Isn't that great?!"

Took a moment to gain back his composure, "wellâ€|yes but doesn't it seem a bit sudden? He never even told Shirayuki or I about this."

Joe, bouncing back from his previous excitement added, "oh yeah I guess your right that does seem kind of sudden."  
>"Do you know when he left the castle?" Obi asked hoping to dig up more information. Joe happily replied "From what I've heard, they left three days ago. They should have arrived by now."<p>

Obi was a little concerned now and asked "But no word on if they actually have arrived at the castle?" This struck Joe as he fumbled with his reply "W-wellâ€|no not exactlyâ€|" Joe now wore the same concerned expression Obi had.

Obi started to run back as he yelled back to his friend "I have to tell Shirayuki the situation, you hold down the fort!"

"Aye Aye sir!"

"Shirayuki, you've done enough for today you can take off for the rest of the day." Ryuu said with his head glued to a book. A look of tired relief crossed the woman's face "Ok thank you Ryuu take it easy."

"You too." He replied as the red headed pharmacist gathered her things and made her way out.

She was actually glad to be let off a bit early, she had promised Obi she'd make a dish from Tanburn her grandparents used to make. All the ingredients couldn't be found in Lyrias but she was sure she could look around the stalls and find something to improvise.

She made her way around the small shops, enjoying the smells and people around. She found a stand full of butter leaf plants and decided it was the perfect missing ingredient, as she was deciding which she wanted she overheard the owner of the stand and an older man talking.

The owner was a woman that seemed to be in her mid forty's, she was short with cinnamon colored hair and a rounder face. While the man was tall, young, with auburn hair and a slim face. The lady said just above a whisper "You know all this politic stuff is getting out of hand they should just give the land back to who rightfully owns it."

"I'm with you on that, who even gave those nobles the land in the first place?" the man said just below a shout.

"Well from what I heard they cornered the queen into giving up her land." The older lady stated.

"Nonsense, they clearly took it by force. They probably threatened her with something." The man said in a condescending manner.

"That's literally what I just said."

"Oh well anyway, the point is they need to be stopped. I don't doubt that they will cease in trying to take as much power as they can." The man added with a slightly worried expression.

"You said it. Though I have faith someone will stop them, they can't continue forever unnoticed." The lady replied with a hopeful expression.

"Um Excuse me, I'd like to purchase this butter leaf please." Shirayuki approached the older lady when it seemed their conversation had come to an end.

"Oh of course, thank you for your service!" The lady said before both the man and older lady noticed and adding with a shocked expression in unison "Y-your hair?! Its Red!"

Shirayuki suddenly became very aware that she forgot to put her hood up and her red locks were out in the open. She averted her eyes shyly "O-oh yeah it is"

The older lady's shocked face turned into one of admiration "Don't be embarrassed by your hair Miss. Be proud, red is the color of fate, strength and love. Embrace your color."

Surprise crossed the young pharmacists features, then a smile.

Shirayuki bowed, Thanked the old lady, and was on her way.

\_Note: Thank you so much for the support! I've had this idea stuck in my head for way to long so I'm happy to finally write it all down! Please let me know if you like this story idea and if there are any typos (\*%\$-½%|)\_

### 3. Chapter 3

Note: Sorry for the delay I meant for this fic to update more frequently but spring is so busy O.o but I will update the next chapter as soon as possible! Thank you again for your patients :D

Shirayuki was on her way back, arms filled with ingredients and a smile a little more joyful then usual because of a certain old lady.

Obi was on the roof tops, his usual way to travel through Lyrias, searching for his mistress to share this information with. "Obi!" He heard a shout from the crowd immediately he knew who it was, other then her voice giving it away she was the only one he couldn't sneak up on. He jumped down next to the red head, noticing her unusual smile.

"Hey mistress did something happen?" He said with a smirk. She giggled a little, "Not really, your done early did you make it to the check point?"

"Yeah...about that, I have some news. Zen, Kiki, and Mitsuhide are on there way to Winstal castle"

"Wow really? That's great it's nearby we could all see each other, I heard there's a lot of political things going on there right now though. Did he write it in a letter?"

"Well that's the thing, I heard it from another guard. And he heard it a awhile ago and no word on if they've arrived. Call me a worry wart but wouldn't they have written something about going to Winstal?" Shirayuki felt that something wasn't right with the situation after hearing Obi. And remembering the overheard conversation earlier she started connecting the dots, "You don't think something happened do you? I mean I know that the nobles there at the castle are aggressive but they wouldn't do anything to Zen would they?"

Obi sighed averting his gaze "We have no way of knowing now do we. And there's no way I'm going to check and leave you here." Shirayuki sighed this time, he knew what she was going to ask then huh. But she had to do something. She took a deep breath,

"Obi lets go to Winstal castle. I know how to ride a horse now so I won't be such a burden. I can't imagine the nobles would hurt a prince, but we can't take any changes."

The cat eyed boy looked at her wide eyed "Mistressâ€|we don't even know if these rumors are true though."  
>"We can't take a chance Obi, Zen has always been there to help us" and she looked down a bit embarrassed "he's always helped me. I think it's time to help him."<p>

Obi wore a gentle smile "Well I can't argue with mistress, especially after you put your mind to something. We can leave tonight."

She smiled brightly at the boy, "Thank you Obi!"

Zen woke up finding himself on a cold stone floor. He groaned as he moved to sit up. Noticing his surroundings, he saw stone walls on three sides and silver poles on the other. A small window giving light from the top of the back wall. Between the poles was a narrow walkway and across the walkway was a unit like his own but filled with his two aids.

Zen was furious to say the least. "Mitsuhide! Kiki! Are you guys alright?!" The two quickly got up and leaning up against the long vertical poles "Yes are you hurt Zen?!" Mitsuhide quickly questioned. Zen was relived yet still angry "Yes I'm fine. What happened?"

Kiki replied "They knocked you out and got the upper hand on us. Apparently this is there base and the queen's knights are too afraid to come here. We don't know where they took our horses or where exactly this base is."

Zen sighed, "And they won't negotiate. Great."

Mitsuhide looked at Zen "We have to get out of here and tell the queen what's going on. Do you have a plan Zen?"

>Zen looked down "I'm sure the queen already knows this is happening and something like this was likely to happen. And I'm sure my brother agreed to this as a test to see if I can take care of myself in this kind of environmentâ€¦ I doubt either of them imagined the nobles taking it to this length though."<p>

Zen looked out the small window above him. "I'm sure word will get out and the queen will send a search group. We shouldn't be locked up here long."

"I wouldn't be too sure of that now." The leader of the pack came out from the hall that separated the two units. "I'm the head Knight here, and there's no way your queen's army is going to save you. The rumors are that the nobles have blackmailed the queen for control over most of the kingdoms power, but the truth is, the queens our master's puppet."

"Why are you doing this?!" Mitsuhide shouted at the knight. "There's no need we are up for negotiation." The knight chuckled "Now that wouldn't be any fun now would it? When our masters arrive tomorrow at sunset the aids will be taken to be sold. As for you, prince Zen, I believe they plan on spreading the news that you died fighting a bear?" The knight laughed obnoxiously.

"Who will come save you now? By the time your brother King Izana finds out, you'll have already met your fate." The knight started to leave "Oh that's right, rumors say you have a redheaded girl you've found a likeness toward." Zen's anger boiled in him at the mention of Shirayuki. "She has nothing to do with this." The knight wore a crooked smile, "Pity, it'd be exciting if she did. Although she will be heartbroken with the news of your death, Prince." With that she shut the door and was gone.

Tense air filled the the void where the knight once stood. Kiki and Mitsuhide just looked at Zen silently as the desperate prince said barely above a whisper "We have to get out of here."

Note: Thank you for reading next chapter will be up soon !

End  
file.